

Pure Devotion

8-16-26

2 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV)

For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

It is glorious to be a Christian. We trust Jesus and are forgiven, have blessings on earth, and have a home in heaven. God loved us first. Thus, God expects us to love HIM back with a pure devotion. Our love relationship with Christ is humanly revealed in marriage. Marriage among the Jews in Jesus' time involved two separate ceremonies, the be/trO/thal and the final wedding. Usually, a year elapsed between the two, but during that period the woman was regarded legally as the man's wife, while socially she remained a virgin. The betrothal contract was binding and could be broken only by death or a formal written divorce. Unfaithfulness or violation of a betrothed woman was regarded as adultery. The virgin Mary, Jesus' mother, was betrothed to Joseph when she had Jesus. When we accept Christ as our Savior, we are betrothed to Jesus as a spiritual pure virgin to HIM. God wants us to be purely devoted to HIM.

Ephesians 5:22–33 compares the marriage of a man and a woman to the relationship between Christ and the church. Thus, Paul said, “I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.” Divine jealousy is seen as a virtue, because God wants pure devotion to Christ saving us for all eternity. However:

2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)

“But” I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, “your thoughts” will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Paul is afraid that Satan has deceived believers and their thoughts will be led astray. He was afraid Satan had deceived them as he had deceived Eve in the garden of Eden. To understand the magnitude of this Biblical fear, we need to understand the nature of Eve’s sin. Her sin wasn’t a single act, but a heartfelt disobedience to what God clearly said. Satan’s deception he used on Eve was the same deception he has used on mankind throughout history. In Gen.3:1 Satan reveal his greatest tool. Satan said to the woman, “Did God really say?”

It is significant that the serpent's 'seduction' of Eve was not sexual but rather deceiving her mind so she denied the truth of what God had said. This is the exact way Satan tempted Christ in the wilderness. Today on homosexuality Satan says, "Hath God really Said?" Transgender? "Hath God really Said?" Sex outside of marriage? "Hath God really Said?" On and on and on, Satan says, "Hath God really Said?" What Satan used on Eve, he uses on us. Satan is not original. Thus, the story of Eve aptly depicts the danger we face, that our *thoughts* will be led astray: Satan leading us to question what God said. Now the church is confronted for tolerating false teachers.

2 Corinthians 11:4 (ESV)

For if someone comes and proclaims "another Jesus" than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a "different spirit" from the one you received, or if you accept a "different gospel" from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

The deception:

Proclaiming another Jesus; Receiving a different spirit; Accepting a different gospel.

Galatians show that we must have pure devotion to Christ and not tolerate these false teachers.

Galatians 1:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Any man, any angel, preaching any gospel other than Jesus and HIM crucified should be accursed. The word literally is *anathema*, meaning eternally condemned or damnation. The reason for the harsh language is because Satan can disguise himself as “an angel of light,” and so can his ministers. The vehemence with which Paul denounces these false teachers has bothered some commentators. But this shows God’s wrath against false teachers, Satan’s ministers who pervert God’s WORD leading people astray. To keep on solid going astray, we must stand first and foremost on Jesus Christ and HIM crucified. Just as the Apostle Paul said:

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Pure Devotion: We should be assured of our relationship with Jesus. We shouldn't have any question. So let me ask you a question. If you were standing before God and HE asked you, why should I let you in heaven. What would you say? Your eternity rests on your answer. Only one answer; I am forgiven!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.